

REMARKS

Claims 18-22, 24-28 and 30 are pending. The applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

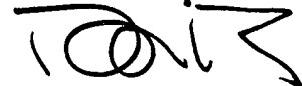
Claim 30 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morohashi et al., *Self-aligned Contact Process for Nb/AlOx/Nb Josephson Junctions*, APPL. PHYS. LETT. 48(3), 20 January 1986, pp. 254-265 (hereinafter “Morohashi”) in view of Lee et al., *RHEA process for fine-geometry Josephson junction fabrication*, IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON MAGNETICS, 27(2), March 1991, pp. 3133-3136 (hereinafter “Lee”). The applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn for the following reasons.

Claim 30 is amended herein to include the features of claim 26, which were indicated allowable in the office action mailed January 11, 2006. Claim 30 thus represents claim 26, rewritten in independent form to include the features of original claim 18, and is accordingly allowable. Since the above amendment to claim 30 does not raise new issues in view of the indication of allowable subject matter with regard to the amended portion, the applicant respectfully requests entry thereof.

In view of the foregoing, the applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

If there are any problems with the payment of fees, please charge any underpayments and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,



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